UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,217	07/28/2003	Thomas D. Erickson	YOR920030090US1	5463

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EXAMINER
LIU, LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2445	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 October 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Note: The Examiner for the present application has changed.

1.   This office action is responsive to communications filed on 10/08/2009.

2.   Claims 1-30 are pending and have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.   Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Hussein et al. (Patent no.: US 7,007,235 B1).

With respect to **claim 1,** Hussein teaches an article of manufacture in computer

readable form comprising computer readable program code means stored therein for

performing in a computer system a method for providing an online collaborative

environment for at least one user at a user information processing device (Hussein: fig.

1-3, said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the

method comprising the steps of:

a) automatically creating an instance of an online meeting, including creating a

graphical display of separate meeting phases and an agenda of the meeting's phases

and making the graphical display of the online meeting instance available to a plurality

of users each at a user information processing device (Hussein: 3-5, col. 6, lines 6-37,

col. 8, lines 29-60, and col. 10, lines 50-67);

b) receiving input from at least one user (Hussein: col. 8, lines 29-60, and col. 11, lines 1-28);

c) depicting participating users in respective meeting phases of said instance and depicting user input in a graphical representation including a set of objects for showing updated meeting information on said graphical display (Hussein: col. 13, lines 6-35 col. 13 line 66 to col. 14, line 37); and

d) forwarding said graphical display to all participating users for display and user access at each user information processing device and providing real-time updating of said graphical display (Hussein: col. 14, lines 38-51, col. 15, lines 1-57, and col. 19, line 53 to col. 20, line 8).

With respect to **claim 2,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the steps of automatically determining if all meeting phases have been completed;

if all meeting phases have been completed, terminating the meeting instance; if all meeting phases have not been completed, repeating steps b) - d) until all phases specified in said agenda are completed (Hussein: col. 14, lines 38-51, col. 15, lines 1-57).

With respect to **claim 3,** Hussein the article according to claim 2, wherein said method further comprises detecting user meeting activity and comparing detected user meeting activity to at least one predefined criterion and wherein the step of depicting includes an indication of said at least one user's activity, based on the comparison of said activity with the criterion (Hussein: col. 14, lines 38-51).

With respect to **claim 4,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein said

user input is selected from the group comprising a query, a response, a text comment,

and a task specification, said method further comprising storing the user input as stored

input and wherein said representation includes a handle to said stored input, which can

later be used at said user information processing device to retrieve said input (Hussein:

col. 8, lines 29-60, and col. 11, lines 1-28).

With respect to **claim 5,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein said

method further comprises providing a dynamic determination of the next active meeting

phase based on at least one of results and analysis of at least one of user input and

activity in at least one previous meeting phase (Hussein: col. 16, lines 17-65).

With respect to **claim 6,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein said at

least one user is assigned a role and the type of input and associated phase in which

input can be given is restricted by the role (Hussein: col. 9, lines 7-24).

With respect to **claim 7,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein an

active phase of said meeting is emphasized in a visual representation of the meeting

viewable at the user information processing device (Hussein: fig. 7-8, col. 13, lines 6-10

and col. 14, lines 38-51).

With respect to **claim 8,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein said

method further comprises steps of:

identifying a transition from one meeting phase to an earlier phase in said

agenda (Hussein: col. 13, line 66 to col. 14, line 51);

providing at least one of a graphic representation of a meeting loop for display at a user information processing device and of one or more interactions of a given loop (Hussein: fig. 7-8, col. 13, lines 6-10 and col. 14, lines 38-51); and

providing user-accessible control features in said graphic representation for enabling said at least one user to review an earlier iteration of said loop (Hussein: fig. 7-8, col. 13, lines 6-10 and col. 14, lines 38-51, col. 18, lines 11-45).

With respect to **claim 9,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein said representation includes both graphic and text section and where the content of said text section is automatically adjusted to match user selection of the point of focus in the graphic section (Hussein: col. 8, lines 29-60, and col. 11, lines 1-28).

With respect to **claim 10,** Hussein the article according to claim 9, wherein the method further comprises showing in said graphic section an indication of at least one user visiting a previous or future meeting phase based on at least one of user input or user activity at the graphical representation (Hussein: col. 8, lines 29-60, and col. 11, lines 1-28).

With respect to **claim 11,** Hussein the article according to claim 9, including means for setting status of objects in said graphic representation to one or more of:

Open/Locked; New Information/Seen; Glitter/No Glitter (Hussein: fig. 7-8, col. 13, lines 6-10 and col. 14, lines 38-51).

With respect to **claim 30,** Hussein the article according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises enabling a given user to participate in a given instance of an

online meeting either synchronously or asynchronously (Hussein: col. 14, line 66 to col.

15 line 21).

In regard to **claims 12-29** the limitations of these claims are substantially the

same as those in claims 1-11. Therefore the same rationale for rejecting claims 1-11 is

used to reject claims 12-29. By this rationale **claims 12-29** are rejected.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIN LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-1447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Srivastava Vivek can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lin Liu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2445

/VIVEK SRIVASTAVA/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2445